

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01
OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 SCS-06 CA-01 PC-01 AID-05
/098 W

-----102539 200855Z /23

O R 191845Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6367
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN NDJAMENA

REF: STATE 044004 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PROVIDES INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REFTEL
ON REBEL STRENGTH AND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.

1. WE ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH ENTIRE KNOWN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY IN CHAD THROUGH THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.
TO DATE WE HAVE NOT ISSUED A GENERAL WARNING, BUT HAVE BEEN
ISSUING SPECIFIC ADVICE ON MOVEMENTS AND SAFEGUARDS.

2. OUR GREATEST DANAGER AT THE MOMENT REMAINS THAT OF THE
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INNOCENT BYSTANDER WHO GETS CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE. REBELS
HAVE NOT KNOWN ANY TENDENDENCY TOWARDS ANTI-AMERICAN OR
ANTI-WHITE ACTIONS. THEIR PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN STRIDENTLY
ANTI-FRENCH, BUT AS THEY APPROACH POWER IN CHAD THIS WILL
PROBABLY BE TEMPERED.

3. A DETAILED L STING OF ALL AMERICANS IN CHAD IS BEING

PREPARED, AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS IT IS FINISHED. FOR THE MOMENT THE DEPARTMENT CAN BE REASSURED THERE ARE NO AMERICANS NOW IN BET, BILTINE, OUADDAHI, OR BATHA.

4. MY GREATEST IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THE UNRELIABILITY OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. I AM WORRIED NOT ONLY ABOUT OUR HIGH PRIORITY TRAFFIC, BUT ABOUT OUR ROUTINE TRAFFIC WHICH MIGHT WELL CARRY INFORMATION ABOUT SOME UNSUSPECTING AMERICAN TRAVELERS WANDERING AROUND THE AREA. WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING FURTHER THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT DO TO ASSURE US MORE RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

5. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT REBEL SUCCESS IN THE NORTH WILL EMBOLDEN REBELS ELSEWHERE. RUMBLINGS IN THE EAST HAVE ALREADY STARTED AROUND ABECHÉ.

6. COMBINATION OF REBELS RALLYING TO GOVERNMENT AND GOUK. DRIVE TOWARD COORDINATION OF REBELS EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN A POLARIZATION OF THE REBELS TOWARDS EITHER OF THE TWO EXTREMES. THE LARGER PORTION HAVE MOVED INTO SOME FORM OF AT LEAST INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH GOUK.

7. IN THE SHORT RUN ETHNIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REBELS WILL MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE. HOWEVER, IN THE LONGER RUN A TOUBOU DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IS UNTHINKABLE; THEY ARE TOO FEW

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AND TOO ATYPICAL OF CHAD.

8. STRENGTH FIGURE FOR VARIOUS REBELS GROUPS ARE BEING REFINED BY DAO AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. FOLLOWING ARE THE ROUGH, RULE-OF-THUMB FIGURES I HAVE BEEN USING. (ALL COULD BE DOUBLED FOR A SHORT CAMPAIGN).

GOUK.	2,500
MALLOUM BOUKAR	500
HISSEN HABRE	300
EL BAGLANI	1,000
ABDARAHAM	LESS THAN 50 (\$), 9.8% 85-4Y THREAT

9. LOGISTICS OF GOUK. ARE LARGELY UNKNOWN, BUT OBVIOUSLY ADEQUATE FOR EASY MOVEMENT IN NORTH DESPITE HARASSMENT BY CHADIAN AIR FORCE. THIS COMBINED WITH THE SUPPLIES THEY HAVE CAPTURED AND MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO CAPTURE FROM STOCKS SET UP FOR NDJAMENA - FAYA RELIEF COLUMN, SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR AN ADVANCE ON NDJAMENA. IN ADDITION, IF CHADIAN CLAIM OF LIBYAN AIR DROPPS AT FADA IS TRUE, THIS WILL HELP.

10. BELIEVE THE CHANCES OF SUCH AN ADVANCE RANGE FROM POSSIBLE

TO PROBABLE. HOWEVER, IN MAKING SUCH A PROGNOSTICATION I AM NOT ONLY JUDGING SITUATION WITHIN CHAD BUT TRYING TO OUTGUESS QADDAFFI AS WELL. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD ME THAT FRENCH HAVE ASKED SAUDIS TO PUT GREAT PRESSURE ON QADDAFFI TO RESTRAIN REBELS SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT VICTORY.

11. AS NOTED IN ITEM 8 THERE ARE PROBABLY 1,500 MEN AVAILABLE TO THE REBELS IN THE EAST.

12. NDJAMENA IS BASICALLY AN ARAB CITY WITH THE ARABS OUT-NUMBERING SOUTHZYVERS TWO TO ONE. THEREFORE, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT REBEL CELLS EXIST IN THE CITY.

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13. DAO WILL FURNISH DETAILS ON DEPLOYMENT OF CHADIAN FORCES, BUT AGAIN ROUGHLY OF THE ORIGINAL 5,000 MAN ARMY, 2,000 MEN HAVE BEEN LOST, 500 ARE IN THE MISSING COLUMN RETREATING FROM OUINIAGA KEBIR, 300 ARE IN CAMP AT MOUSSARU, 500 AROUND NDJAMENA, 300 IN ABECHÉ, 200 IN SAHR, AND THE REST IN SMALLER GARRISON SYSEWHERE. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NDJAME00725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780077-0472
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdwtx.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d1761d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 44004
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3543581
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION IN NDJAMENA
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CD
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d1761d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014